

OPINION 903

ISTIOPHORUS LACÉPÈDE, 1802 (PISCES): DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING—(1) Under the plenary powers all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Istiophorus* Lacépède, 1802, made prior to the present Ruling, are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Xiphias platypterus* Shaw & Nodder, 1792, is hereby designated to be the type-species of that genus.

(2) The generic name *Istiophorus* Lacépède, 1802 (gender: masculine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Xiphias platypterus* Shaw & Nodder, 1792, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1888.

(3) The specific name *platypterus* Shaw & Nodder, 1792, as published in the binomen *Xiphias platypterus* (type-species of *Istiophorus* Lacépède, 1801) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2362.

(4) The specific name *gladius*, as attributed erroneously to Broussonet, 1786, in the supposed binomen *Scomber gladius*, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 921.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1657)

The present case was submitted to the office of the Commission in July 1964 by Mr. P. J. P. Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead's application was sent to the printer on 2 September 1964 and was published on 31 December 1964 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 444-446. Comments on the application from Dr. H. Lemche, Prof. C. R. Robins, Dr. F. Williams and Prof. Th. Monod, together with further comments by Mr. Whitehead were published in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 22 : 148-153.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 25 October 1966 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (66)58 either for or against the proposals as set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 445-446. At the close of the prescribed Voting Period on 25 January 1967 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes—twenty (20), received in the following order: China, Holthuis, Vokes, Lemche, Obruchev, Mayr, Munroe, Tortonese, Jaczewski, Boschma, Alvarado, Uchida, Sabrosky, Stoll, Bonnet, Kraus, Mertens, Ride, Forest, Evans.

Negative Votes—two (2): do Amaral, Brinck.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Hubbs, Simpson.

Commissioner Binder returned a late affirmative vote.

The following comments were made by Commissioners in returning their votes:

Dr. L. B. Holthuis (28.x.66): "I fully agree with Dr. Lemche that since Bloch under *Scomber gladius* refers to Broussonet, Broussonet's specimen is a syntype of Bloch's species and could be chosen to be the lectotype of that species. If this is done, and I propose here to do so, *Xiphias platypterus* Shaw & Nodder, 1792, and *Scomber gladius* Bloch, 1793, become objective synonyms."

Dr. C. W. Sabrosky (12.i.67): "I object strongly to item (4). There is no specific name *gladius* Broussonet; it is merely an error of authorship citation. Must we fill the Index with erroneous usage? The formal suppression of '*gladius* auctt. nec Bloch' is of no value."

The Secretary informed Mr. Whitehead of Dr. Holthuis' suggestion of a lectotype designation for *Scomber gladius* Bloch and Mr. Whitehead replied: (16.vi.69) "... I think the solution is a happy one, more particularly since the recent revision of Moreau has placed all nominal sailfish species in the monotypic genus *Istiophorus* (illegally, but perhaps commendably, using the name *Istiophorus platypterus*)."

It was then suggested that Mr. Whitehead should make the formal lectotype designation which appears below.

DESIGNATION OF A LECTOTYPE FOR *SCOMBER GLADIUS* BLOCH, 1793 (PISCES)

by P. J. P. Whitehead

I hereby designate the specimen examined by Broussonet, and holotype of *Xiphias platypterus* Shaw & Nodder, 1792, to be lectotype of *Scomber gladius* Bloch, 1793. This specimen, a mounted fish of 7 feet 6 inches total length, is in the British Museum (Natural History), London, Reg. No. BMNH. 1964.7.2.1.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on the Official Lists and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

gladius, *Scomber* [Broussonet, 1786], (a cheironym)

Istiophorus Lacépède, 1802, *Hist. Nat. Poiss.* 3 : 374

platypterus, *Xiphias*, Shaw & Nodder, 1792, *Naturalist's Miscellany* 28 : pl. 88.

CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (66)58 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 903.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

W. E. CHINA

Assistant Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

5 August 1969